THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir. The fifth meeting of the National Water Resources Council (NWRC), was held under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister on Ist April, 2002 to consider the draft revised National Water Policy. In light of the views expressed and suggestions made by the members of the Council, certain modifications were incorporated in the draft policy with consensus. The Revised National Water Policy was adopted and a Resolution to this effect was unanimously passed by the Council. The Policy, *inter-alia* envisages that each State should formulate its own State Water Policy backed with an operational action plan in a time bound manner within a period of two years and implement the same in order to achieve the desired objectives as laid down in the policy.

Ground water level in A.P.

3790. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a severe water crisis in Godavari and Telangana regions of Andhra Pradesh on account of scanty rainfall; and

(b) if so, the measures proposed to save the people from acute water shortage in view of rapid depletion of ground water in the affected districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Water being a State subject, measures/initiatives to tackle water shortage are to be taken by the concerned State Government. As per information furnished by the Government of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana region and Godavari districts of the State received deficit rainfall during the year 2001-2002. Deficit rainfall creates deficiency in ground water.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has launched "Neeru-Meeru" programme on a large scale to improve facilities of artificial recharge, which will reduce the adverse affect of deficit rainfall.